

THE JERUSALEM POST

Founded as The Palestine Post in 1922. Published daily except on Saturday. In Jerusalem by The Palestine Post Company. Registered at the G.P.O.

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P.O.B. 61 Tel. 4094 (3 lines).
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Israel IL 22.000.
Foreign IL 24.000 per year.

Thursday, December 25, 1955
Tele 14. NIM - Jezreel 16. 1272

IT is always assumed that rational action on day to day affairs is guided by the requirements of a long-term policy. Israel's

ERRORS of long-term policy is sufficiently well-known by now. It is, roughly speaking, peace within her present boundaries. Immediately after the war of 1948 that also appeared to be the policy of the U.N., which spent much time and energy in helping to freeze the status quo after the fighting and to work out Armistice Agreements between Israel and her neighbours.

It would be extremely difficult to discern any such desire, or in fact any long-term view at all, in the remarkable document put out by the UNTSO staff yesterday in hurried reply, it must be supposed, to the Israeli Government's statement of the previous day announcing the terms of the Hammarskjold proposals for the Nitzana Zone, noting that Israel was willing to accept these and that Egypt had failed to accept them, and proposing a conference.

General Burns' 700-word statement is open to question on three separate points. There is, first of all, the extraordinary courtesy — if not worse — of failing to accept the official announcement made by the Israeli Government on the previous day that it would accept the Nitzana proposal though it had wished (when the time for detailed talks came) to clarify certain points not in accordance with MAC practice in the past. That is not a condition for the acceptance of the proposals as such, and if this suggestion is not the result of simple mistake, then it amounts to misrepresentation. Further, Egypt has at no time made any public statement to the effect that she is willing to accept the proposals, and General Burns alone probably knows how much effort and pressure it has cost the U.N. merely to prevent a formal rejection. In this matter the U.N. has systematically spoken on Egypt's behalf, which is harmful to its status as an impartial body.

Again, it is a sign of at best no policy at all, to place blame for border shooting on legal Israel frontier patrols as much as on illegal Egyptian firing across the lines. This approach will certainly not stop the shooting, nor will it cause Israel to withdraw the patrols. That is a suggestion parallel to the U.N. recommendation of some years ago that the best way to stop Legionnaires on the Old City wall from shooting at passers-by in Mamillah Road was to close that artery to traffic, another concession which Israel refused to make.

The final and most serious fault in yesterday's UNTSO statement consists of its failure even to mention the Israeli declaration that this country wishes to avail itself of U.N. facilities to convene a conference for the stabilization of the present situation. This is an error of omission on which the most serious constructions can be placed. If the U.N. is willing to abdicate so much of its position in order to buy no more than Egypt's willingness not to reject out of hand the U.N. Secretary-General's proposals, then it will not be surprising if Egypt puts up her price for peace all round. It is a policy of selling the permanent peace Israel needs and seeks for the sake of peace for the U.N. today. That is not the purpose for which the U.N. was established or brought into this area, and it will not prevent Israel from following her own clear policy of genuine peace, sooner or later, by the firm and determined defence of her rights, at a peace conference by choice, and in the field if it should become necessary.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

EAST EUROPEAN STATES TELL EXILES "COME HOME"

By DANIEL NORMAN

LONDON (O.P.W.S.)

RUMANIAN refugees in Western Europe have recently been receiving visits by "travelers" from Rumania who, apparently, come to bring news of relatives. The visitors are perfectly informed as to the whereabouts of most of the exiles abroad and friends in Rumania, but the general climate. In fact, this generally appears towards the end of the interview, the visitor has called to persuade his host to take advantage of the "recent amnesty" and return to his homeland.

These visits are part of a planned campaign launched immediately after the promulgation of the June 22 "amnesty" granting full pardon to all Rumanians abroad except those wanted for murder, on condition that they return home before August 25, 1956.

The "amnesty" was quickly followed by a series of large-scale advertisements in the Western non-Communist Press, such as those in the French daily "Le Monde" by the establishment of two representative offices in Berlin and Switzerland, and by a thaw in the flow of letters from Rumania.

Most of these come from friends and members of the Czech "colonies" through "friendship societies" and bodies of a similar nature — a practice apparently being adopted by other satellite governments.

Customs Hungarians

Budapest, with its "World Organization for Hungarians" set up after the April 4 amnesty, in general follows the Czech pattern. But the Hungarian Communists, at least on one point, have proved far more imaginative than the others. They have introduced beautiful "pin-up girls" into their campaign. Letters enclosing a photograph of the unknown but glorious "lady" have been received by many young Hungarian refugees in Paris; each picture gave the girl's address and promised the prodigal son the warmest welcome on his return.

Poland has made the greatest effort of all. Polish refugees are invited to "Tele-Polonia" (the Poles), a special radio station working solely for their salvation.

In France alone, where the number of exiled Poles reaches 120,000, the Polish Government, according to a reliable source, spends "some three million francs" on their welfare.

Some of the associations in France by Warsaw have a highly patriotic flavour. Some have a propaganda and intelligence mission. Special mention must be made of the activities of the Warsaw Red Cross which every year finances Polish day.

For an increasing number of "Franco-Polish" children. A similar effort is being made in Western Germany.

Stereotyped Messages

To complete the picture, must be added radio propaganda describing the Rumanian Government's amnesty as an act of humanity towards its citizens abroad living in "awful conditions" "exploited and degraded" by the capitalist world. An important place in these broadcasts is given to the statements of the few who have returned.

It is, of course, the calculation that the drawing power of his name should have been rated as low as \$15 or so a plate — they do better in the United States. But it is a new approach to fund-raising in Israel to suggest that the public should contribute with pleasure for the giver. Up to now it has been a matter of unglamorous and unsung deductions from salaries, or a little quiet pressure, to get blackmail exercised upon the well-to-do in the privacy of their offices in accordance with an income chart worked out in some other office.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that what with all the rain her garden has been sprouting mushrooms. There was a great deal of discussion within the family concerning the difference between mushrooms, toadstools and other neighbours offered to see for sure whether these particular ones were edible or not, mostly by watching them up with illustrations in ancient cookbooks and encyclopedias.

After a good deal of discussion it was decided to prepare some mushrooms with a little fish, bacon and give the dish to the cat. After all, animals are supposed to have an extra sense which warns them away from poisonous food. And if the cat ate the meat and survived the family could also try. The cat approached the mushrooms gingerly (it was too hot), nibbled a bit here and there, ate up the lot, licked the gravy and sat back to wash her face. An hour later she was still purring in a patch of sunshine on the floor, and the family sat down to mushrooms steaks. A few days later the mother of the cat got all mixed up with the man who cleaned his office stairs. He had bought a massage at a bargain price from a street hawker, the man reported. Our friend told him of the mushroom-cat experience and suggested he do the

BUT this was a different sort of occasion. Among the 400 guests attending were people who give to everything as well as people who like to be seen as generous. There were a few who could afford several tickets and a sprinkling of people who had drawn the lucky number in the raffle held after their firm or organization had been persuaded to buy a pair of tickets. There were people who thought they could afford to stay away, or people who could not resist an opportunity of meeting the great and celebrated face to face. Happily, there were also a few who just liked the idea of a great big slip-up party of which their wives could wear new dresses and nobody had to feel apologetic during the times because it was all in a good cause.

MR. Menushin's new shofar is silver-plated, or rather, partly covered with Yemenite filigree work. He looked at it with interest and a kind of affection but resisted the natural urge to

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A Shofar, presented by Mayor Gershon Agron, of Jerusalem, to one of the world's outstanding violinists, Yehudi Menuhin, in the presence of President Ben-Zvi at the Ben Ha'am benefit dinner on Tuesday evening.

Photo by Schlesinger

Readers' Letters

CUSTOMS DUTY

Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir — I should like to comment on the letter published in your issue of December 9, complaining on the high duty imposed on gifts sent to persons in this country.

One of the main aims of duty is to protect local produce. Therefore the tariff cannot differ between an article which is sent as a gift and one shipped for some other purpose. On the other hand, this question has

been discussed by the customs authorities and it is hoped to find a way of exempting some gifts given for special family celebrations from full or part duty on conditions that the value of the parcel does not exceed IL 10. Should the gift be worth more, only the first IL 10 will be exempt.

Yours, etc.,
SHLOMO AMIT

Public Relations Director,
Treasury
Jerusalem, December 21.

Yesterday's Britain's Policy Misdirected

Press

BRITAIN'S intention to divert the Jordanians' mounting hatred for her into anti-Israel channels, writes "Davar" (Ha-Adarot), is belated and weak.

Britain has long been outdone by Egypt and Saudi on that score.

London changed her policy, tried to get Jordan to come to terms with her and help her (especially the Western part) overcome a host of problems. It could place its rule in that country on a friendly basis. An essential change in the political thinking in Great Britain is needed.

"Ha-Adarot" (General Zionist) writes that the Tel Aviv municipal workers' strike is socially and economically unjustifiably directed only at the chafing of both Right and Left. It is the friends who are among the Asian peoples (who do not even do their best to recognize her), and that the Egyptian set-up is far less dangerous to us than the Baghdad Pact.

"Ha-Adarot" notes that the Mapa manoeuvre to delay the debate on the Israel Peace Plan is characteristic of that party's approach to the State's security.

It should be remembered that a postponement of the de-

solve the wage increase problem, do not improve the lot of the workers, fail to impose a share of the burden on the rich and groups which till now enjoyed the advantages of getting rich and not living within the State's means. Considering our mounting unemployment.

Wages and Profits

"Al Hanishanah" (Mapam) writes that the Government should speed up public building construction in the development zones and agricultural settlements, think up new ways of financing the unemployed, and import competing with local production and do everything to intensify our export trade. This means an end to the wage freeze, which limits the workers' purchasing power and contracts production as a result.

"Here and Now" thinks that all concerned should try to get down to the roots of the wage problem. The workers are entitled to be paid to fight to tighten their belts, the Government must find ways to limit profits and extravagant spending; and see to it that the well-to-do pay their full share of the cost of living allowance do not

overshoot the wage freeze.

The scarce cases that do way over the wage freeze are filled to overflowing. The few free entertainments available besides the cinema, as well as the Bar Golan, Casino, etc., are spoken of by bygone days. It suggests Israel folkore and folk dancing there nightly. A tourist could go to Tel Aviv for himself. Teach every tourist how to buy a ticket, and do not let him go to the country than a dozen organized tours.

Major Abba Khoussy is said to be willing to see a real casino in Haifa, with games of chance. He has offers, but Government permission has not been forthcoming.

No Sailors' Attractions

About 8,000 foreign sailors come ashore in Haifa every year, and it is no secret that they consider this city one of the dirtiest anywhere. Only the Scandinavian Seamen's Church, which is visited by 2,500 sailors a year, has organized a programme for these enforced tourists. They show the sailors around the country and the seaman does not feel that his time has been wasted here. In this field,

the main feature was William Keighley's "Green Pasture,"

which was shown this week at the Orial Cinema in Jerusalem to an invited audience.

The film is well-conceived and outstanding in the indoor shots, particularly the excavations at Beit She'arim, but the narration suffers from poor editing.

The score cases that do way

overshoot the wage freeze.

The tourist office would like

to see the Bar Golan, Casino, etc.,

etc., open again.

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Issue: December 1955

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